GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3938
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2016
Medical Research at Graduate and Post Graduate Level
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Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps being taken by the Government to ameliorate the education standard and medical research work at graduate and post graduate level in various medical teaching institutions;

(b) the details of the number of research papers published by various medical institutions and new researchers carried out during the last three years;

(c) whether the cases of irregularity in various medical entrance examinations have come to light during the last three years and whether the quality of these institutions has suffered on account thereof; and

(d) if so, the details of the action taken by the Government and the effective measures taken by the Government for transparency in regard to these examinations?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(ANUPRIYA PATEL)
(a) & (b): The Medical Council of India (MCI) is the statutory body responsible for establishing and maintaining high standards in medical education. For this purpose MCI causes the assessment of every medical college on a year to year basis.
As per MCI's Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations, 2000, a postgraduate student in broad specialities/super specialities is required to present one poster presentation, to read one paper at a national/state conference and to present one research paper which should be published/accepted for publication/sent for publication during the period of his postgraduate studies so as to make him eligible to appear at the postgraduate degree examination.

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As informed by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR), the following programmes are running to support medical research work:
(i) Short Term Studentship
ICMR supports the Short Term Studentship (STS) programme for undergraduate medical students studying in different medical colleges of the country with a view to inculcate research spirit at the formative years of their career. A stipend of Rs 10,000/- is given to undertake a short term study to around 1000 students every year. Students are selected through online research proposals submission from various medical and dental colleges from various States and UTs and screening & review by subject experts. During the last three years, a total of 3369 MBBS students were sanctioned ICMR's STS.
(ii) Financial support for thesis to MD/MS/MCh/MDS students:
ICMR provides financial support of Rs 25,000 for thesis of 50 slots annually to medical graduates who are admitted to MD/MS/MCh/MDS courses in any of the MCI recognized institute/medical college with assurance of at least one research paper in some scholarly journal. During the last three years, ICMR has supported 150 medical graduates.
(iii) MD-Ph.D Course conducted by ICMR
ICMR sponsored integrated course on MD-PhD is being conducted at three medical universities of the country viz., King Geroge's Medical University, Lucknow, Sri Ramachandra University, Chennai, and National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS), Bengaluru since 2006, with an aim to attract medical students to pursue health research. At the end of this integrated course each student is able to publish 3-4 research papers in SCI indexed journals with reasonably good impact factor. A total of 40 students have been supported under this Scheme in the last three years.
(c) & (d): The medical entrance examination conducted by private medical colleges or their associations were not perceived to be very transparent. With the amendment to IMC Act, 1956 in 2016, a common entrance exam has been prescribed. The NEET-2016 was conducted by CBSE wherein more than 8 lakh candidates appeared.
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